

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant claims are drawn to treatment of osteoarthritis using inulin sulfate. The primary reference, Cullis-Hill (US 5,145,841) mentions inulin sulfate as one of the agents (col. 5, line 57) but further teaches that the effective polysulfated polysaccharides are those of dextran, xylan, chondroitin, dermatan and hyaluronic acid (col. 9, lines 51-58). The invention of Cullis-Hill is also mainly drawn to making and use of metallo complexes wherein the metal ions are those of silver, gold, quaternary ammonium etc. Sodium salts are not suggested. Cullis-Hill also teaches that their complexes do not dissociate in water unlike the sodium, potassium or ammonium salts of polysulfated polysaccharides (col. 11, lines 49-59). The metallo complexes of Cullis-Hill were also more potent stimulators of proteoglycan synthesis than the sodium salt (col. 23, line 55 through col. 24, line 5). Cullis-Hill in view of Dictionary.com and Martindale is not seen to teach or render obvious the use of oral administration of inulin polysulfate or its salts for the treatment of osteoarthritis obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Shaojia A. Jiang, Supervisory Patent Examiner in Art Unit 1623 at 571-272-0627.

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